



**Division of Developmental
Disabilities**

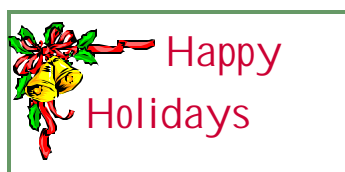
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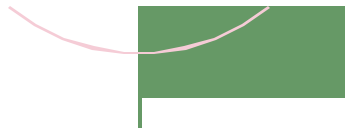
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On-line News

Division of Developmental Disabilities
November - December 2004 Issue



Home and Community Based Services - evaluating quality

By Dianne Wagemann, Director of Policy and Planning

The Division recently was awarded a \$500,000 renewable grant to assess new methods of evaluating quality in Home and Community Based Services by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The competitive grant application was submitted by the Division in partnership with the Institute for Human Development / Center for Excellence at Northern Arizona University. Other supporters and partners in this grant are the Aging and Adult Administration in the Department of Economic Security and the Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) in the Department of Health Services.

Co-Operatives - Update - Northern Arizona and Phoenix

By Dianne Wagemann, Director of Policy and Planning

The member-owned human service co-operatives are projected for implementation next year in Northern Arizona and in the Hispanic community in Phoenix. Co-Operatives, through grant money, will help people with disabilities reside in their homes and participate fully in community life while giving more choice and oversight to the delivery of supports, caregiver training and hiring, program management, etc.

Northern Arizona Co-operative

A co-operative membership campaign took place this fall in Northern Arizona creating a mixture of new people who are willing to be assertive in making a change in this industry. Providers have been helpful in the development stage. The hope is to begin providing services in February.

GALA Co-operative

The group representing the Hispanic community has decided to move forward. They had a few internal issues to address that postponed decisive action towards incorporation, but are now ready to move forward. They have targeted Summer 2005 to begin services through their Phoenix based co-operative.

Autism/Asperger's Conference

Education, Speech, Social, Biomedical and Life Issues

January 8-9, 2005 at Arizona State University West Campus (Phoenix)

Co-Sponsored by Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities and
Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services

www.phxautism.org, email infor@phxautism
or call 480-940-1093 or 602-471-1447

**Division of Developmental
Disabilities**

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¿Usted o alguien a quien usted conoce lee solamente español? Llame al 602-542-0419 o 866-229-5553 para que le incluyan en la lista de personas que reciben la traducción al español de este boletín. Gracias.

www.azdes.gov/ddd
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New Transition Agreement - AzEIP (Arizona Early Intervention Program) and ADE (Arizona Department of Education)

By Carol Wegley, Arizona Department of Education and printed with author's permission.



A new intergovernmental agreement regarding the transition of eligible children from the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) to the public education system became effective for both the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) in September 2004. Under the new Transition Agreement, the timelines and responsibilities of both the providers of AzEIP services and the special education programs are clearly spelled out and coordinated to help all families be prepared and supported as they leave AzEIP.

The new Transition Agreement will improve the experiences of families who leave the early intervention system to enter preschool special education. Families, whose children do not qualify for special education services or who choose not to go to special education, will also be helped by their transition teams assisting them to identify available resources within their communities, which will continue to support their child's growth and development after the child's third birthday.

Annual Notification—On February 1st of each year, AzEIP service coordinators send to the school a list of names, addresses, birthdays and phone numbers of children who will be old enough to transition to the school in the upcoming 16-month period.

Transition Timeline—Early intervention service coordinators and other Individual Family Service Plan team members discuss with the family the options and community resources that will be available after the child turns three years old.

Birth to 2 years 6 months

- Transition Planning Conference -The AzEIP service coordinator arranges a meeting of the parents, an AzEIP service provider from the family's IFSP team and a representative of the school district in which the parents live.
- Preschool Eligibility Conference/Multidisciplinary Team Conference -The school coordinates a meeting of the parents, AzEIP service coordinator and the school team members who make the determination of eligibility for preschool special education.
- Individual Education Plan Conference -If a child is determined eligible, the conference will be held within 30 days, or less, with the parents, AzEIP service coordinator and school personnel to develop the Individual Education Program for the child.

3 years

The child is no longer eligible for the Arizona Early Intervention Program. If the child is eligible for the Preschool Special Education Program, the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education is required no later than the child's 3rd birthday. The full text of the new Transition Agreement is available at: www.azdes.gov/azeip

Social Security Numbers- disclosure

By Kim Simmons, Executive Staff Assistant

Identity theft and misuse of social security numbers is a concern. The Federal Privacy Act, 5 U.S. Code § 552a provides that a state agency cannot require, as a condition for receiving any right, benefit or privilege provided by law, the disclosure of an individual's social security number. To comply the Division takes the following actions:

1. A request for an individual with developmental disabilities' or family member's social security number is voluntary on their part.
2. Eligibility or access to services cannot be denied if an individual or family member chooses not to disclose their social security number.
3. When requesting an individual's or family member's social security number for any reason, including application for eligibility, the individual or family member must be informed that disclosure is voluntary.

Contact local Division office for more information.